

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /080 W
-----103206 150933Z /10

O R 150820Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8006
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3933

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, PINT, PGOV, SHUM, AF
SUBJECT: WIDESPREAD ARRESTS AND REPORTED EXECUTIONS CONTINUE
UNABATED

1. SUMMARY: ARRESTS OF ENTIRE FAMILIES, INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN, CONTINUE, AND RUMORS OF EXECUTIONS OF FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE NOW WIDESPREAD THROUGHOUT KABUL. WE CAN CONFIRM THAT FAMILIES RELATED TO THE ROYAL LINE, INDIVIDUALS RELATED TO THESE FAMILIES, AND LEADING OFFICIALS OF PAST ROYAL AND DAOUD REGIMES, ARE THE SPECIFIC TARGETS OF THE REGIME'S CAMPAIGN. WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING, HOWEVER, WHETHER THIS CURRENT EFFORT WILL EVENTUALLY SPREAD TO OTHER MOHAMMADZAI FAMILIES OR TO OTHER INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS. END OF SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 13, THE AFGHAN PRESS CARRIED THE TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER NOOR MOHAMMAD TARAKI'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF MAY 6 WITH THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS. THE ACCOUNT INCLUDED TARAKI'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT FORMER FOREIGN
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MINISTER WAHEED ABDULLAH HAD BEEN KILLED. IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT QUESTION REGARDING ABDULLAH'S WELFARE, TARAKI REPLIED THAT "HE RESISTED" AND ADDED THAT "WAHEED ABDULLAH AND ALL THOSE TYRANTS WERE DESTROYED". WE HAVE RECEIVED CONFLICTING REPORTS ABOUT HOW ABDULLAH DIED, BUT MOST OSERVERS CLAIM THAT HE WAS EXECUTED ON APRIL 30, AND NOT KILLED DURING THE FIGHTING AT THE PALACE, AS HAD BEEN REPORTED EARLIER.

3. RUMORS OF EXECUTIONS OF PROMINENT FORMER OFFICIALS OF DAOUD'S GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS GOVERNMENTS OF THE KING, ARE CURRENTLY SWEEPING KABUL. THOSE MEMBERS OF DADOU'S CABINET WHO REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN PUT TO DEATH ARE: AZIZULLAH WASSIFI, FORMER MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE; GHASUDDIN FAYEQ, FORMER MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS; WAFIULLAH SAMAYEE, FORMER MINISTER OF JUSTICE; AND, ABDUL KARIM ATTAYEE, FORMER MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS. IN ADDITION, WE CAN CONFIRM THAT THREE FORMER PRIME MINISTERS UNDER KING ZAHIR HAVE BEEN ARRESTED: MOHAMMAD MUSA SHAFIQ, NUR AHMAD ETEMADI, AND ABDUL ZAHIR. WIDESPREAD RUMORS NOW CONTEND THAT ETEMADI AND MOHAMMAD MUSA SHAFIQ HAVE BEEN EXECUTED. IN ADDITION, WE KNOW THAT SABAHUDDIN KHUSHKAKI, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE UNDER PRIME MINISTER ZAHIR, WAS ARRESTED, AND HE HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN EXECUTED. TIMUR SHAH ASEFI, HUSBAND OF ONE OF NADER SHAH'S DAUGHTERS, HAS ALSO REPORTEDLY BEEN KILLED. AT THIS TIME, WE ARE UNABLE TO CONFIRM THAT THESE EXECUTIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE, BUT THE RUMORS ARE SO WIDESPREAD THAT THERE IS PROBABLY TRUTH IN SOME OF THEM.

4. WE CAN CONFIRM THAT ARRESTS OF ENTIRE FAMILIES, INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN, RELATED TO THE ROYAL FAMILY (THE MUSAHIBAN LINE OF THE YAHYA KHEL OF THE MOHAMMADZSIS) HAVE TAKEN PLACE AND THE DETAINEES ARE BEING HELD IN AN UNFINISHED PRISON AT PUL-I-CHARKI JUST OUTSIDE KABUL. CONDITIONS AT THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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PRISON ARE PRIMITIVE, AT BEST, WITH NO RUNNING WATER, TOILET FACILITIES, OR VENTILATION. ONE AFGHAN WHO WAS RELEASED REPORTED THAT SEVERAL TIMES DAILY INDIVIDUALS ARE REMOVED FROM THEIR CELLS AND ARE NOT SEEN AGAIN. ALL THE SULAIMAN FAMILIES HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, INCLUDING THOSE OF GENERAL ROKAI SULAIMAN, (ALSO BELIEVED BY HIS FAMILY TO HAVE BEEN EXECUTED) AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ABDUL ALI SULAIMAN. SOME MEMBERS OF THE SULAIMAN FAMILY ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO MEMBERS OF THE MUSAHIBAN LINE (E.G.G., ABDUL ALI SULAIMAN'S WIFE IS A GHAZI), BUT RELIABLE REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE SULAIMANS ARE A GOVERNMENT TARGET BECAUSE THEY RECEIVED THEIR LANDS THROUGH A ROYAL GRANT FROM KING NADER SHAH, AND THUS ALL THEIR PROPERTY HAS BEEN NATIONALIZED UNDER THE REGIME'S ANTI-NADER DECREES. THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE MUSAHIBAN LINE, HOWEVER, REMAIN THE SPECIFIC TARGET OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CAMPAIGN. THE DAOUD AND NAIM FAMILIES WERE, OF COURSE, IN EFFECT ELIMINATED DURING THE VIOLENCE AT THE PALACE. THOSE WHO SURVIVED AND WHO WERE HOSPITALIZED HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE HOSPITAL UNDER ARMED ESCORT. GHAZI FAMILY MEMBERS, MOREOVER, WHO WERE NOT KILLED AT THAT TIME HAVE NOW BEEN ARRESTED. THESE INCLUDE: MRS. NAZIFA GHAZI NAWAZ, FORMER HEAD OF AFGHAN FAMILY GUIDANCE ASSOCIATION (HER HUSBAND DIED OF A HEART ATTACK SOON AFTER

THE COUP); AND THE ENTIRE FAMILY OF SALAHUDDIN GHAZI. WE HAVE NO FIRM FIGURES REGARDING HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE NOW HELD OR BEING SOUGHT BY THE REGIME, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT A MINIMUM OF 50 INDIVIDUALS ARE UNDER DETENTION AT PUL-I-CHARKI.

5. IN ADDITION TO THESE ARRESTS BASED ON FAMILY CONNECTIONS, WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS PRESSING ITS SEARCH FOR FORMER OFFICIALS OF THE DAOUD AND ROYAL GOVERNMENTS. IN THIS REGARD, WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE NEW REGIME IS SPECIFICALLY SEEKING ALL THOSE WHO WERE ASSOCIATED WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER MOHAMMAD MUSA SHAFIQ.

6. THE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS OF THESE WIDESPREAD ARRESTS AND REPORTED EXECUTIONS ARE CLEAR, AND I AM SUBMITTING MY CONFIDENTIAL

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RECOMMENDATIONS IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.
ELIOT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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